

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

May 13, 2014

The latest mortality report from our Department of Public Health details the devastating impact that lung cancer has had on our County residents. Lung cancer is the third leading cause of death amongst men and women in Los Angeles County, behind only heart disease and stroke. The disease touches us all, affecting every ethnic group and every neighborhood in our County. Although lung cancer has often been considered a “smoker’s disease,” smoking is just one of several causes of the disease. In fact, more than two-thirds of people diagnosed with lung cancer have never smoked or have already quit smoking.

Lung cancer does not, however, impact men and women equally. Over the past thirty-five years, the rate of new lung cancer cases nationwide has dropped by thirty-five percent in men while doubling in women. Today, a woman in the U.S. is diagnosed with lung cancer every five minutes. This rising incidence rate has resulted in increased harm, as lung cancer surpassed breast cancer to become the leading cause of cancer death in women in 1987. It is now the third leading cause of premature death amongst women in Los Angeles County. Women also suffer disproportionately in comparison to men from a variety of other lung ailments, ranging from asthma to more serious

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conditions such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder, or COPD.

Thankfully, increased awareness and effective advocacy can help lead to more and better treatment options for women with lung cancer, COPD, asthma and other lung diseases. The County is proud to partner with the American Lung Association and its new initiative, Lung Force, as it attempts to achieve those goals. Lung Force's mission is to unite women to stand together with a collective strength and determination to lead the fight against lung cancer and for lung health. This important effort deserves our full support.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaims the week of May 11-17, 2014 as "Women's Lung Health Week" throughout Los Angeles County, encouraging all County residents to learn more about the early detection and treatment of lung cancer and lung disease.

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